

ORIGINAL

FILED

12/08/2016

Anderson, Diane

Ed Smith

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of
LaVonna Robinson <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 9:20 AM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Oppose rule 8.4(g)

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

FILED

DEC 08 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

It is a sad day in our country when the very ones that have been elected and or appointed are the ones that want to limit our (the citizens who put them in office) freedom to speak and have specific beliefs. I am asking you to vote NO on rule 8.4(g) we the citizens of Montana DO NOT WANT THIS!

I am believing you will reject this rule change.

LaVonna
8455 black marlin dr.
Billings, MT 59106
Okiesinmt@msn.com

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mrs. LaVonna Robinson
8455 Black Marlin Dr
Billings, MT 59106-4622
okiesinmt@msn.com

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Marti Bushfield <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 9:20 AM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Opposing the speech code for lawyers of rule 8.4.

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

I am sickened that this new speech code for lawyers is in place.

The rule is a violation of the free exercise of religion & the freedom of speech and of the press.

Our nation & the state of Montana was based on these freedoms.

As a believer of the Word of God, and the standards that the good Lord put in the Bible, it would be to our demise if we go any other direction.

It is our responsibility to protect our rights so liberal laws are not passed down to our children & grandchildren, where our ethical standards and future is jeopardized for future generations.

It is with great concern to see this liberal law put in place that would come back to haunt us.

Please keep this from rule from passing.

Sincerely, Marti

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Marti Bushfield
PO Box 642
Eureka, MT 59917-0642
(406) 297-2597
martib@interbel.net

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DEC 08 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Sharon Roberts <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 8:49 AM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Religious Freedom

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

This is a violation of my religious freedom and is a violation of freedom of speech, I cannot support this activity.

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sharon Roberts
PO Box 252
Fortune, MT 59918-0252
(406) 882-4945
sharonroberts @hotmail.com

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DEC 03 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Jim Van Sickle <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 8:49 AM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Traditional Marriage

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

Members of the Montana Supreme Court;

The Constitution of the United States presents laws which prevail over any state law. The First Amendment clearly protects all citizens on beliefs and opinions. Who you can marry is presently the law of the land, however, the right to have a different opinion and the right to express that opinion concerning who can be married to whom is a right under the first amendment of the US Constitution. This opinion of the present US Supreme Court is only an opinion, it is not a law ratified by Congress, and may very well be, "trumped," by Congress.

Congress makes laws, the Supreme Court defines and clarifies laws! The Supreme Court of Montana needs to interpret present state laws, not create laws. The US Constitution First Amendment clearly represents the laws of all of its Citizens!

The Lawyers of this state clearly are also protected, if not, no lawyer will ever be able to project a "defense," perspective again in any Montana court!

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jim Van Sickle
PO Box 377
Stevensville, MT 59870-0377
(406) 546-4571
jim.vansickle@me.com

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DEC 08 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Delneta Rice <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 8:49 AM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Changing laws for Christian lawyers

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

This change of law for Christian lawyers would be a violation of free exercise of religion.

It seems that all other beliefs are upheld except when it comes to Christian beliefs, so truly this change of law just for Christian lawyers would be a violation of free exercises of religion!!

Sincerely,
Delneta J Rice
2324 Hwy 16
Glendive MT 59330
rcakes@midrivers.com

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Delneta Rice
2324 Highway 16
Glendive, MT 59330-9219
(406) 687-3826
rcakes@midrivers.com

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DEC 08 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Michael Haskins <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 8:49 AM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: speech freedom for lawyers

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

I am opposed to any rule that would limit lawyers or anyone else from being able to speak for or against any subject. Our constitution gives us the right to express freely our view or opinion about anything we believe weather it has to do with religion or politics. A lawyer should not be limited in his expression of belief of a client, or for himself in court or any where else. Limiting what a lawyer is able to say or talk about, violates our right to freedom of speech and religion. Court rooms and trails should not be limited to any limitation that would prevent the jurors form hearing both sides and views of any case presented before them. It does not mater what people want to hear, if speech and content of expression of speech and religion is limited, so is all our granted freedoms then limited, and people then live in fear and terror.

I hope you will reject this rule change.

Michael Haskins
P.O. Box 1468
Noxon, Montana
nox5552@gmail.com

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Haskins
P.O. Box 1468
114 3rd. Ave.
Noxon, MT 59853-1468
nox5552@gmail.com

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DEC 08 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Wayne Roberts <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 8:49 AM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Religious Freedom

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

This ruling clearly violates my religious liberty provided by the constitution and do not support this action.

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mr. Wayne Roberts
PO Box 252
2453 Meadow Creek Road
Fortine, MT 59918-0252
(406) 882-4945
john33@rainierconnect.com

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DEC 08 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Bernice Hash <bhash@sgapc.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2016 8:30 AM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Rule 8.4, Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys

Honorable Members of the Court,

You have called for public comment of the proposed new Rule 8.4(g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys. As a concerned citizen, I hereby submit my request that you reject this rule for the following reasons:

- Unreasonably vague,
- Infringes on religious freedom,
- Excessive government overreach,
- Interfere with peoples personal rights,
- Could punish attorneys for stating, in private, their sincere, personally held beliefs,
- Limits freedom of speech.

Please, please do not adopt this proposed rule.

Thank you,
Bernice Hash
2030 11th Avenue North
Billings, MT 59101

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DEC 08 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Notice: This communication, including attachments, may be confidential or privileged. If you are not the addressee, please advise the sender by reply email and immediately delete the message and any attached documents without copying or disclosing their contents. Thank you.

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Gary Garland <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 8:49 AM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Please Reject 8.4(g)

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

A lawyer, just like any other employed person, should not be rejected from holding a job position based on their personal beliefs. They should enjoy all the rights of every other working class person in regards to their freedom of speech and freedom to exercise their religion.

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mr. Gary Garland
1020 1/2 4th St
Havre, MT 59501-3752
garland_gary@hotmail.com

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DEC 08 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Terri Guy <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 8:49 AM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: I am a Liberal Christian

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

Some days I find it difficult to balance being a liberal and a Christian in today's world. I do my best each day to be non-discriminatory with all people regardless of their beliefs. I believe in the words of the bible as well as the words in our Constitution. Everyone in this country has the right to exercise freedom of religion as well as freedom of speech. Please allow our attorneys the same rights.

"I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it." ~ Evelyn Beatrice Hall

Thank you.

Terri Guy

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Terri Guy
3144 Lynn Ave
Billings, MT 59102-6619
(406) 248-5036
cbcpres@yahoo.com

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DEC 03 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Heather Wall <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 8:49 AM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Opposition to Rule 8.4 (g)

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

Your Honor,

I am writing to let you know that I oppose Rule 8.4 (g) and ask that you not allow this rule to be enforced.

I find it a violation of free exercise of religion as well as a violation of freedom of speech and of the press.

Just because a person doesn't agree with a belief- lawyers should not be disbarred for holding that belief.

Please consider this request from your constituent.

Thank you for your time and service to our country.

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Heather Wall
615 6th St SW
Sidney, MT 59270-3918
(406) 696-4876
rodwall@gmail.com

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DEC 08 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Anderson, Diane

ORIGINAL

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of
Teresa Rowen <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 8:49 AM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Reject Rule 8.4 (g)

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

Dear Judge,
Marriage is between one man and one woman... that union was and is created by God in order to procreate and populate the earth.

Thank you for your consideration of this fact and I hope you will reject Rule 8.4 (g).

Sincerely,

Teresa Rowen
3108 Alpine Drive
Billings, MT 59102
teresa.rowen@rocky.edu

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Teresa Rowen
3108 Alpine Dr
Billings, MT 59102-0353
teresa.rowen@rocky.edu

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DEC 08 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Elaine Dodge <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 8:49 AM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Opposition to 8.4(g)

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

Dear Honorable Ed Smith and our other distinguished Supreme Court Justices of the great state of Montana, USA,

I am writing this letter to express my sincere opposition to Rule 8.4(g) which you are considering implementing in Montana.

This rule will discriminate against Christian attorneys, as well as others who hold specific values but may not hold specific "religious" values. Rule 8.4(g) would violate attorney's right to not only THEIR freedom of religion and their right to freedom of speech and of the press, but also to their CLIENTS, who may or may not practice the same "religious" values as the attorney they choose to hire.

Whether you agree or disagree with a particular belief, lawyers ought not to be disbarred for holding the beliefs and values they do.

By removing these constitutional and God-given rights, you would disallow Montanan citizen's right to a fair hearing. By implementing this type of law, you are, in effect, discriminating against those who hold values different from your own.

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,
Elaine Dodge
94 Pony Rd
Livingston, MT 59047
edrninmt@hotmail.com

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Elaine Dodge
94 Pony Rd

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DEC 08 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Arnetta Hodgman <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 8:49 AM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Rule 8.4(g) Rules of Professional Conduct

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

I respectfully submit my view of this proposal. I believe this is in violation of free speech, which in turn also violates freedom of religion and the press as well. Lawyers ought to have the legal right to these as much as anyone. I also feel that we ought to be showing more protection and respect for the very religion, Christianity, which was the driving force for the founding of this great nation. Let's begin to show more respect and honor for our foundation lest our house crumble.

I ask you to reject this rule change.

Respectfully submitted,
Arnetta Hodgman
337 Delta Circle
Billings, MT 59102
ah545912@gmail.com

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DEC 03 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
BILLINGS, MONTANA

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Arnetta Hodgman
337 Delta Cir
Billings, MT 59102-6818
(406) 656-2147
ah545912@gmail.com

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Cheryl Brownell <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 8:49 AM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Ruling 8.4

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

I'm concerned about a recent proposed change in the laws affecting Christian lawyers that threatens disbarment for holding certain opinions. This is in direct opposition to our national rights of freedom of religion and freedom of speech. It makes me wonder why Christians are being targeted more than other groups in our culture. Please reject this ruling and preserve our constitutional rights.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Brownell
1149 W. Woolman
Butte, Mt 59701
cbrownell@q.com

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cheryl Brownell
1149 W Woolman St
Butte, MT 59701-8735
(406) 723-7443
cbrownell@q.com

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DEC 08 2016

Ed Smith

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Karen Cox <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 8:49 AM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Professional Rule of Conduct, Rule 8.4(g)

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

A rule that threatens to discipline a lawyer for his or her speech on issues of political, social, or religious viewpoints is an attack on the First Amendment rights of every citizen. Our family respectfully asks that you would uphold Constitutional rights for every Montanan.
Freedom of speech, free exercise of religion, and freedom of political belief must not be compromised for any individual.

Please reject the rule change and protect the Constitutional rights of lawyers, thereby protecting the rights of all citizens of the great state of Montana and stop this government overreach.

Sincerely,

Karen and Scott Cox and family

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Karen Cox
5815 Lazy Ln
Billings, MT 59106-3679
k.cox80@me.com

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DEC 08 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Aaron Holmberg <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 7:36 AM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Reject 8.4g - Support Religious Freedom

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

Please do not support or implement this rule change. It does not support free speech in America. It would represent an erosion of religious freedom. If a rule change like this is made, it allows future and more drastic reductions of religious freedom a precedent.

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mr. Aaron Holmberg
168 Mountain View Dr
Victor, MT 59875-9418
aaronholmberg10@yahoo.com

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DEC 08 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Tracie Jenkins <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 1:06 AM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Opposition to 8.4(g)

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

Thank you for all you do for our amazing state. I watched you in action at MSU during the Krakauer proceedings last spring.

Please consider the following points in your ruling of the 8.4(g) lawyer/marriage issue.

- This rule is a violation of the free exercise of religion.
- This rule is a violation of the freedom of speech and of the press.
- Even if you disagree with a belief, lawyers ought not to be disbarred for holding it.

I appreciate your time and thank you for this consideration.

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Ms. Tracie Jenkins
1304 S 5th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59715-5520
(406) 670-5444
traciemjenkins@gmail.com

FILED

DEC 03 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

From: Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Carley Robertson <communications@montanafamily.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 1:06 AM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: First Amendment Rights Under Attack with Rule 8.4(g)

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

Dear Justices,

The First Amendment guarantees our right to speak our minds, and the government is supposed to impartially support us in the exercise of this right. There is an inherent bias, however, that needs to be brought to the surface of this discussion.

Since in present liberal parlance, "freedom" is always defined as "freedom from..." something, the rights of those who WOULD NOT speak are held in higher esteem than those who WOULD speak about any given subject. This is tantamount to willfully restricting the rights of those who WOULD speak out. This is discriminatory to say the least.

Those who define the terms of the discussion - in this case the ABA - also have the power to coerce conformity; they are given power that is out of proportion to their standing.

To label anything "religious" is to discount, to belittle, to disparage, and demean, not just the speech, but the speaker. The intent of this labeling is often not only to make the content unimportant, but the speaker as well. This is the case with the present subject.

The ploy of "But that's just your opinion that it makes a difference," is just that: a ploy, because it is no more than an opinion that it does NOT make a difference.

Please reject Rule 8.4(g).

Sincerely,

Carley C Robertson, MD
PO Box 2113
Havre, MT 59501
carley_dd54@yahoo.com

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

FILED

DEC 03 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA